

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Common in highlands, rare in lowlands except at sea shore. In summer males are snow-white, black on the back, scapulars and wingtips. In winter the males are similar to the females. In summer the females are pale brown, paler below, with dark back and upper wings with pale wingbars. In winter it looks similar but duller colours. The bill is black in summer and yellow in winter. Feet and eyes dark. Have a fast, bouncy flight-pattern. Live in groups during winter and in pairs and families during the summer.

Breed in northern Scandinavia, in stony territory and rocks by the shore. Their nest is a carefully woven basket found in crevices in rocks. During winter they are found at sea shore, or inland often in large groups.



Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson. (2005). *Icelandic bird guide*. Reykjavík: Iðunn.

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from <https://www.ni.is/node/27176>